

Arkansas Department of Human Services
Division of Behavioral Health Services
Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention
Supplemental Manual for Substance Abuse Treatment Services (SATS)

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What is the benefit to my agency of becoming a SATS Provider?**

Answer: Arkansas Medicaid has developed a new program that is specific to the treatment of substance abuse for beneficiaries under the age of 21 and pregnant women. This new funding source will provide your facility an opportunity to be involved with treating populations that have traditionally been under served. In addition, it will allow a more comprehensive treatment regimen for those clients that may have co-occurring disorders. It also supports a system of care approach and may prevent utilization of more intensive services and placement in more restrictive settings.

2. **Who is eligible to receive services?**

Answer: Those eligible to receive services will be pregnant women through the last day of the month in which the 60th post-partum day falls and children and adolescents age 9 up to 21 years old.

3. **What services will be reimbursed and what is the reimbursement rate?**

Answer: The Arkansas Medicaid SATS manual is currently being developed and will be promulgated with input from several workgroups. The following services are planned to be reimbursed: Assessment, Treatment Planning, and Care Coordination, Multi-Person (family) Group Counseling, Individual Counseling, Group Counseling, Marital/family Counseling and Medication Management. A fee schedule for these services will be available on the Arkansas Medicaid website at www.medicaid.state.ar.us.gov in the future.

4. **What is the projected start date for certification?**

Answer: The projected state date is March 1, 2011 for the enrollment in the Arkansas Medicaid SATS program. Certification by DBHS as a Substance Abuse Treatment Services provider is in progress. Services and reimbursement is effective 7/1/11.

5. **Do I have to have a separate alcohol/drug program accreditation from my accrediting agency?**
Answer: Yes, you will need a certification from the accrediting agency for the pertinent outpatient alcohol and /or /drug abuse treatment component of your program.
6. **Do I have to be licensed through OADAP before I can become a SATS Provider?**
Answer: Yes, the provider must be licensed through OADAP before becoming a SATS Provider.
7. **What is the process for my agency to become a certified SATS Provider?**
Answer: The provider must complete the Application for DBHS Certification as SATS Substance Abuse Treatment Program.
8. **Will substance abuse services my agency provides need to be prior authorized?**
Answer: Yes, all requests to provide substance abuse services will be authorized through Value Options. PAS are scheduled to start two (2) weeks prior to the service and reimbursement state date 7/1/11.
9. **What other quality improvement measures are in place? For instance, will there be a separate audit of the substance abuse program?**
Answer: OADAP licensure standards for alcohol and/or substance abuse treatment programs are required. DBHS retains the right to perform scheduled or unannounced site visits. Professional recognized standards of care can be assessed in conjunction with ascertaining the quality of the services. Value Options will be the Quality Improvement Organization that will authorize and provide on-site audits for providers who deliver substance abuse services.
10. **What kind of training will be offered to help me become more familiar with this new program and if I want my agency to be a part of it?**
Answer: Plans are currently in progress to provide state-wide education and training on the topic of the SATS Program. These information meetings will include DMS, Value Options, DBHS and DHS.
11. **Will we need to get another PCP referral for a client (already enrolled for mental health services) that enters our substance abuse component?**
Answer: No, another PCP referral is not required for Arkansas Medicaid beneficiaries to receive SATS treatment.

12. **Can schools participate in the new SATS Program?**

Answer: Only providers that are licensed through OADAP are eligible to become a SATS Provider and must have a separate certification from an accrediting agency for the alcohol/drug program. Schools may choose to coordinate with eligible providers to ensure that those in need of services have access.

13. **Does the implementation of the new SATS program prohibit providers from seeking CARF accreditation independently sometime in the future?**

Answer: No, however, accreditation for the alcohol/drug program must be obtained in order to be eligible and certified SATS Providers. Providers may meet the accreditation requirements with current CARF, JCAHO, or COA accreditation that includes certification of the pertinent outpatient alcohol and /or other drug abuse treatment components of the program.

14. **I am a mental health professional (master's degree) working in the mental health and substance abuse field. I do not have a substance abuse specific license. What do I need to become a SATS provider?**

Answer: If you have been providing substance abuse treatment services for past three years, and can be verified by supervisor in writing, the identified requirements must be met in order to provide treatment counseling services.

(A) Licensed Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselor (LADAC)

- Hold a Master's Degree or above in Behavioral Healthcare area from an accredited college or university.
- Three years' experience providing addiction treatment. (Experience must include the diagnosis and targeted treatment for addiction disorders).
- Successfully passing a national qualifying examination as approved by the Board. (Currently the Board accepts the national licensing examinations a required for Licensed Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Psychologist, as well as the written examination administered by the International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium (ICRC) for Alcohol and Drug Counselors).

(B)Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor (AADC)

- One year experience in providing substance abuse treatment services under the supervision of a licensed behavioral healthcare professional. Supervision must include the 12 competency domains of ICRC.
- Hold a master's degree in behavioral science field.
- Six hours of Ethics training.
- Successfully pass the ICRC Advanced Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor exam.